GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3264
ANSWERED ON:12.03.2003
SUPPLY OF ESSENTIAL DRUGS
RAMJI MANJHI

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the drug producers, voluntary health associations and others had suggested that essential drugs be supplied through public distribution system so as to expand the ambit of access to modern medicine to 90 per cent of the population;

(b) if so, whether the suggestion has been considered; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a)to(c): Yes, Sir. The Standing Committee on Petroleum and Chemical (2001) in its 15th Report (30th Lok Sabha) regarding `Pricing and Availability of Drugs/Pharmaceuticals` had agreed to the common suggestion made by drug producers, voluntary health associations and others that supply of essential drugs should be attached with public distribution system. The suggestion of the Committee was considered by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and not agreed to.The diseases that primarily afflict poor are mostly covered under the National Programmes of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare where essential drugs are supplied free by the Government through State Governments.